

3rd February 1925]

After some discussion the following arrangement was adopted in regard to balloting. The Members on the right side of the hon. the President went to the cubicle provided on that side and were supplied with ballot papers by the Secretary. Each one of them then went into the cubicle and after recording his vote, deposited his voting paper in the ballot box placed at the entrance. After the Members on the right side had voted, the ballot box was removed to the left of the hon. the President where a similar cubicle was provided. The Members on the left side of the hon. the President then went into this cubicle and, after getting the voting papers from the Secretary and recording their votes in that cubicle, similarly deposited their voting papers in the ballot box. This function lasted till 12 noon when the box was sealed with a lock and placed before the President. He then ordered that the counting of the ballot papers should be proceeded with and appointed for the purpose two tellers—one the Leader of the House and another the Leader of the Opposition. The Secretary read out the name of the candidate for whom each vote was recorded and handed the voting paper to the Leader of the House who put it in one of the trays provided for the purpose. The votes were then counted and the result was announced by the Leader of the House. M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur L. D. Swamikannu Pillai Avargal obtained 64 votes and M.R. Ry. Rao Bahadur A. S. Krishna Rao Pantulu 42 votes. Four voting papers were found blank. The hon. the President intimated that he would intimate the result of the election to His Excellency the Governor for approval.

The next item of business was then proceeded with with the Deputy President in the chair.

IV QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15 on the 4th December 1924—

1. Starred questions to be put at a meeting of the Council with their answers shall be printed and placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

The Secretary shall call out the name of each interpellator in the order in which the names are printed, specify the serial number of his question and make a sufficient pause to give him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place and putting a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.

2. If a member responsible for a starred question happens to be absent when it is called, it will be open either to him or to any other member to put supplemental questions thereon after the other starred questions for the day have been answered, provided question-time is not thereby exceeded.

3. Questions, not starred, will not be called in Council, but they will be printed with their answers and placed on the table of the House along with the list of starred questions. Oral supplementary questions will not be allowed in regard to unstarred questions.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Depressed classes.

Report on the recent Kalpathy Car festival incident.

* 1 Q.—MR. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have already called for the full report from the Subdivisional Magistrate of Palghat regarding the recent Kalpathy Car festival incident that took place on the 13th November 1924;

[3rd February 1925]

(b) if so, whether they will be pleased to lay a copy of the report on the Council table ;

(c) whether the Government have already taken any steps against those who misbehaved and molested the depressed classes during the time ;

(d) why prohibitory order was served only on the depressed classes by the Subdivisional Magistrate ; and

(e) why the spirit of the G.O. No. 2660, L. & M., dated 26th September 1924, was not given effect to ?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government do not think it necessary to publish the reports submitted by the local officers.

(c) No.

(d) & (e) The Subdivisional Magistrate took the action which seemed to him in the circumstances best fitted to prevent a further breach of the peace.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ With reference to clause (e) of my question, my question is one and the answer is altogether quite different. May I therefore know, Sir, whether the Government Order authorizes the Magistrate or others to prevent members of the depressed classes when they pass through the public roads and pathways whenever they like ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I am afraid I do not quite understand the point. There are two Government Orders and I do not know which he is referring to.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ With reference to clause (e), I have put the question in connexion with the G.O. No. 2660, dated 26th September 1924.”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ Seeing, Sir, that the hon. Member was himself a party to the resolution that gave rise to this Government Order, he knows its purport perfectly well.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ Sir, what I am asking is whether the Government Order has been issued to benefit or oppress the depressed classes.”

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ With reference to clauses (a) and (b) the answer given is that the Government do not think it necessary to publish the information. May I know if they have any objection to do so ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I am sure, Sir, the hon. Member will realise that in this matter, it is desirable for Government not to aggravate but rather to mitigate as much as they can feelings on both sides. On that ground I think it is preferable not to lay the report on the table.”

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ I perfectly agree that it must be the policy to mitigate feelings on such a matter as this. But I want to know if the report contains matters of such a nature.”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ It contains reflections on the conduct of one party or other.”

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ With reference to clause (c) is the hon. Member aware that these occurrences have been recorded as offences ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I have no information.”

3rd February 1925]

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Will the hon. Member call for information ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I do not quite understand what the suggestion is. If the police have recorded them as crimes they must, I suppose, be taking proceedings."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Seeing there has been considerable delay in any proceedings if they have been recorded, I suggest that information may be called for on this point."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" If any person has been assaulted it is quite open for him to lodge a complaint. I imagine that the fact is that the good sense of the persons concerned has prevented them from going to court."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" With reference to clause (c), are the Government satisfied that such unlawful crimes have been properly dealt with ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Does my hon. Friend ask me if I am satisfied ? "

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" I want to know if proper steps have been taken on those persons who have molested or misbehaved with the depressed classes."

Rao Bahadur O. M. NARAYANAN NAMBUDRIPAD :—" May I know if it is a fact that the Government Order to prevent further breach of peace was not given effect to ? "

Water-supply to the depressed classes of Minakshivalasu village, Coimbatore.

* 2 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state with reference to question No. 573 answered at the meeting of the 10th October 1924 regarding the water-supply to the depressed classes of Minakshivalasu village, Coimbatore, whether the Government will be pleased to lay a copy of the complete report that has already been called for on the table of the Council ?

A.—The report of the Collector of Coimbatore is placed on the table.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" With reference to the main question may I know whether and if so why the village officers took part in distributing pamphlets in order to bring the matter to such excesses of ill-feeling between one party and another ? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am afraid I do not again quite follow the hon. Member. I do not see any evidence of the village officers taking any part."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" In the latter part of the report it is stated that ' on the whole I find that there is nothing to show that the village officers of Poppini have, in any way, used their official influence to the detriment of the Adi-Dravidas in question '. Sir, it is certain that they have taken part in the distribution of pamphlets. I want to know whether these village officials are allowed to distribute pamphlets."